In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please cancel claim 4.

Please cancel claim 5.

Please cancel claim 6.

7. - 15. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 16.

Please cancel claim 17.

Please cancel claim 18.

19. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 20.

Please cancel claim 21.

22. -24. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 25.

26. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 27.

28. -33. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 34.

Please cancel claim 35.

Please cancel claim 36.

37 - 38. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 39.

40 - 63. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 64.

65. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 66.

Please cancel claim 67.

68. (Previously Canceled)

Please cancel claim 69.

Please cancel claim 70.

Please cancel claim 71.

Please cancel claim 72.

Please cancel claim 73.

Please cancel claim 74.

75. (New) A method of fulfilling an information need comprising:

receiving a query pertaining to the information need, the query comprised of a fully specified term and a partially unspecified term wherein the partially unspecified term is representative of a matching restriction designed to meaningfully restrict the query results;

processing the query against a plurality of information containing documents to determine a query match based on the presence of the fully specified term and the presence of a match to the matching restriction of the partially unspecified term within a document, wherein the order of the fully specified term with respect to the match to the matching restriction of the partially unspecified term need not be in the same order as the query; and

returning a result that includes the matching portion of the document in which a query match was determined.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

identifying documents that contain the partially unspecified term in an index;

identifying contexts within the index in accordance with the query wherein the index includes pre-analyzed contexts of terms appearing within the plurality of information containing documents;

converting the query into a finite state automaton (FSA); and

matching the finite state automaton (FSA) against the identified contexts.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the finite state automaton (FSA) is a finite state transducer (FST).

78. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the finite state automaton (FSA) allows for the appearance of fully specified and at least partially unspecified terms in any order in a potential matching context.

79. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the finite state automaton (FSA) allows for one or more intervening words between the fully specified and at least partially unspecified terms in a potential matching context.

80. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the contexts are stored as finite state automatons (FSAs).

81. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the documents are accessible over the Internet.

82. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the documents comprise World Wide Web Pages.

83. (New) The method of claim 75 further comprising assigning a score to the query match.

84. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein the score reflects the number of times an instance of the query match is located among the plurality of documents.

85. (New) The method of claim 84 further comprising ranking the documents that contain a query match based on a number of times the query match is located within a document.

86. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein the partially unspecified term includes a syntactic or a morphological restriction.

87. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the index comprises locations of terms within documents.

88. (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising:

determining the location of a term in the query within a document using the index; and

locating a query match for the query based on the location of the term within the document.

89. (New) The method of claim 88 further comprising ranking a plurality of the located matches or portions thereof.

90. (New) The method of claim 89 wherein the ranking is based on one or more features selected from the list consisting of: the location of a match within a document, a weight assigned to a document that contains a match, the age of a document that contains a match, the source of a document that contains a match, and a format feature of a match within a document.

91. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein the query includes a delimiter indicating a first portion of the query for which a relative order is preserved for one or more terms included in the first portion, the relative order being in accordance with a physical position of each term in the first portion with respect to any other terms in the first portion.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 that wherein the matching restriction includes a morphological criteria.

93. (New) The method of claim 92 that wherein the morphological criteria includes one of a noun, verbal noun, adjective, conjunction, pronoun, adverb, verb, transitive verb, intransitive verb, verb in past tense, verb in present tense, verb in future intense, present participle of a verb, past participle of a verb, and gerund.

94. (New) The method of claim 75 that wherein the matching restriction includes a syntactical criteria.

95. (New) The method of claim 94 that wherein the syntactical criteria includes one of a noun phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, adverbial phrase, and adjectival phrase.

96. (New) The method of claim 75 that wherein the matching restriction includes a definable category.

97. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein the matching restriction includes a criteria defined in accordance with a determination by a computer program.

98. (New) A computer readable medium storing a computer program product for fulfilling an information need, the computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for receiving a query pertaining to the information need, the query comprised of a fully specified term and a partially unspecified term wherein the partially unspecified term is representative of a matching restriction designed to meaningfully restrict the query results;

computer program code for processing the query against a plurality of information containing documents to determine a query match based on the presence of the fully specified term and the presence of a match to the matching restriction of the partially unspecified term within a document, wherein the order of the fully specified term with respect to the match to the matching restriction of the partially unspecified term need not be in the same order as the query; and

computer program code for returning a result that includes the matching portion of the document in which a query match was determined.

99. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 98, further comprising:

computer program code for identifying documents that contain the partially

unspecified term in an index, the index including pre-analyzed contexts of terms

appearing within the plurality of documents; and

computer program code for identifying contexts within the index in accordance

with the query, the index including preanalyzed contexts of terms appearing within a

plurality of documents;

computer program code for converting the query into a finite state automaton

(FSA); and

computer program code for matching the finite state automaton (FSA) against

the identified contexts.